

The Yakuts who live in the northern part of the Yakutsk government divide the diseases a man can have into two categories: such diseases which one may catch by chance and which soon are over, e. g. cuts sprains, &c, the healing of which is easily reached either by application of cow's butter, excrements, herbs, &c, or by setting the limbs; other diseases of inner organs, chronical ailments, nervous illness or mental troubles are considered to be due to a demon or spirit. Outwardly applied remedies are useless in such cases; they cannot touch the disease. Only the shaman (ojun) who has the privilege of being in contact with the invisible world is in a position to provide healing or at least relief for the patient. Slight diseases of the second category such as eye ailments (outward inflammation, abscess of the eyelid) may be healed by a single short invocation of the spirit. The shaman will recite his exorcisms for ten minutes and stare at the patient's eyes, until he suddenly spits into the latter's eyes. When the patient now is starting with terror, the evil spirit (abagy, abassy) will be terrified and flee from the patient who gets his health back. Man just gets a disease because an evil spirit, a demon, has visited him.